

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13, 2007

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:36 am by Rick Landavazo
2. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Mike McCoy – I think that we need to look at the off-highway vehicles and green sticker fees for County parks. San Diego County has the second largest green sticker fees collected and there has been pressure on Sacramento to use these fees. I think that we should look into this and see what we can get for San Diego County. I also had questions about the rights I don't know where the private land owner's rights begin and where the parks rights begin. Where they stop and where they interface. I think that needs to be discussed because that could affect other parks too.
 - Rick Landavazo – I would like to add the off-road vehicle discussion to a future agenda.
 - Jim Peugh – The County made a presentation on MSCP Partnership Board Workshop and it would be nice if Parks could have something periodically too. I would be nice to see how the MSCP is fitting into the Park program.
 - Paul Davis – At the San Dieguito River by the Race Track and Fairgrounds there is a lot of activity out there. I know that we took a tour and we have an overlook out there. It would be interesting to hear a progress report on what exactly they're going to do with all that stuff. The restoration at the mouth of the river, east of the fairgrounds.
 - John Degenfelder – I started a list of open spaces in Ramona and wanted to pass this around for everyone. The river trails association is a group that has equestrian, biking and hiking and insurance companies are only covering equestrian. I think this is unusual. Every year we have an event that includes all three groups and this brings up a situation. State Parks is always trying to make sure that all three entities on multi-use trails or single track trails are compatible as far as insurance is concerned. I think it would be interesting for the County Parks to know that something like that is an issue with the insurance agencies.
 - ♦ Brian Albright – There is a bond that has been created, the California Association of County Parks and Recreation Agencies to discuss specifically the different County Trails Plans. Where they divert from each other, how best practices can be used to help existing plans across the State because that's an issue everywhere. Bicycling community is demanding single track opportunities; they don't like to go out on just the maintenance road, they want a trail experience. We kind of manage that by having a few that we do have that we consider to be dangerous turns and have made them one way only, so that there will be no head on collisions.
 - Rick Landavazo – We heard some talk in Valley Center about bicyclists starting to use Hellhole Canyon. Those are some narrow, steep, difficult trails and bikes have issues with this. We are worried about this in Hellhole Canyon. So far I've heard that people are not in favor of mountain bikes being on the trails. It might be good for us

to take this topic and ask the County Parks Staff if we can come back to get a bigger picture of this issue. Allow us to follow this and stay informed. It might also be important to see how these uses are balanced. It would be helpful if Park Staff could help us take a look at this.

- Doug Goad – I think that the State has always had this idea of a single track trail and that the various users need to get along with each other.
- Rick Landavazo – The controversy around trails and multi-use trails is the balance of opportunity.
 - ♦ Brian Albright – I would suggest that we start by providing an overview of the trail system assessment, which was conducted in 2001-2002. It was done by a consultant for the County and they surveyed several thousand trail users in the county. As a highlight, I can tell you of all the trail users in the county, just under 90% are prominently hikers. Just under 10% are bicyclist, and only approximately 1% are equestrian. However, our experiences has been that 1%, mainly equestrian, are the most organized and have the most trail issues that we respond to. We'll summarize the county trail program approved by the Board in 2005 and show what our standards are; maybe we can also do a comparison to where those standards differ from other counties in the state and take your comments.
- Rick Landavazo – Maybe with that some ways that the Parks Advisory Committee can comment or participate in decisions that have to do with converting single use, narrow trails to multi use trails and other issues on how the plan plays out.
- John Degenfelder – I would like to have an update on Barnett Ranch on the next agenda.
- Rick Landavazo – Hellhole Canyon Preserve was recently awarded a grant for \$39,000 for developing materials to raise funds to support acquisitions, from the San Diego Foundation.
- Roger Utt – The situation where they're putting this power link. Does that affect any County property?
- Paul Davis – Is the CAO able to carry this to the public utility commission?
 - ♦ Brian Albright - Yes, the board has taken action publicly.
- John Degenfelder – Is the County still looking to buy park land and open space?
 - ♦ Brian Albright – Yes, Ramona is a great example, the grasslands, Monte Vista, San Pasqual Valley.
- Doug Goad – In the City of Encinitas, they made a proclamation that May 23rd will be World Environment Day.
 - ♦ Brian Albright – At the end of July, the Parks Department will be receiving a proclamation for National Parks and Recreation month.
- Paul Davis – The 18th annual American Trails will be held on October 19th -21st.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2007 AND APRIL 13, 2007 MINUTES

- Approval of March 9, 2007 and April 13, 2007 Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 9, 2007 AND APRIL 13, 2007 - Doug Goad, 2nd – Paul Davis

ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mike Haraway

- ♦ Distributed the April, May and June Monthly Accomplishments.
- ♦ Felicita Park hosted a Renaissance Fair on April 14-15 and 21-22. They had 11,000 attendees, which is one of the highest ever.

- ◆ We had the Miracle Field Grand Opening on May 19th. This is a partnership between the San Diego Padres, Department of Parks and Recreation and the Miracle League of San Diego. This is the first fully accessible ADA ball field in Southern California. About 500 people attended the Grand Opening of the ball field at San Dieguito Park.
- ◆ In June, the County acquired a 43 acre parcel which will be added to the Hellhole Canyon preserve. This acquisition was supported by the Friends of Hellhole Canyon.
- ◆ In June the Department of Parks and Recreation kicked off our Summer of Movies in the Park series, starting with June 21st in Fallbrook, June 22nd in Julian, June 23rd at 4S Community Park, and a 2nd event in Fallbrook, and throughout the summer there will be 7 additional Movies in the Park events scheduled primarily at our community centers in Fallbrook, Spring Valley and Lakeside.
- ◆ We are also still trying to work with the Julian community to get support and pass the Park Maintenance Assessment District ballot measure.
 - ◆ Rick Landavazo – What is the measure about?
 - ◆ That is a measure to establish an ongoing funding source for Jess Martin Park. The managing company that was handling it suddenly pulled out and we were left with it, but it was never funded by the Board of Supervisors. We are trying to create a Community Service District. The assessment is for single family residences and would be about \$40 a year. The majority of the property owners are not residents up there and for the most part, have no desire to pay that kind of assessment.
 - ◆ Doug Goad – Is there something that community groups could do?
- ◆ Yes, there is a group called 'The Friends of Jess Martin', they're working very hard. Roughly \$90,000 is needed a year to maintain that park, which pays for a staff person, turf management, equipment and supplies. Diane Jacob provided funding for 18 months for us to operate that park, while we are conducting the ballot measure.

5. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS – Melissa Lowery

- ◆ We are involved in our year end activities in our Administrative Services Division, to make sure that all funds are not over expended and that all unspent funds are returned to fund balance. On the PLDO report, the bottom line on each area that says fund balance available, that is what's available in that area. The numbers on the side are percentages of interest earned, which have been allocated separately in recent years and now they are going to become part of the total revenue.

This issue is related to a new endeavor we're taking on this year as part of our annual review. PLDO spending requests for each planning group. This year, we prepared our first ever 5 year Park Improvement Plan, which identifies all the improvements we hope to make during the next 5 years in our parks; both those that are funded and not funded. As part of that, I would like to add this year a master plan for PLDO spending in each planning group. That will involve some revisions to our process. Right now we send a letter to each planning group and request a response, in priority order, of how they would like to spend their groups balance of PLDO funds or your future PLDO funds that may come in this year. The planning group then gives us a list of projects. Unfortunately, very often, the list is things that have already been ruled out because they are not feasible or we don't have the park land to do it or they're simply ineligible for PLDO funding. San Dieguito is a great example, every year, they put on as one of their top requests open space buffer land around the community of Rancho San Dieguito, that's great and we support that, but it's not an appropriate expenditure for PLDO funding, which must be spent on active use recreation only. We would like to create a master

plan for each community. The master plan will consist of the items that they request from us that are actually eligible for PLDO funds. So we will not be going back and forth with those letters from previous years that have many things that are not eligible for PLDO funding. Recreation trails when they are incorporated as a component of an active use facility have been deemed by County Counsel to be eligible expenditures. Trail creation through passive open space areas is not.

- ♦ Paul Davis – Is this on a fiscal year basis? Does that mean some of this at the end of the year drops off and you can't use it the next year?
- No, it carries forward every year, it's an ongoing balance.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – In the San Dieguito area there's a lot of high end development and there has been some trail building and there are still some on going trails that we would like to get in that area. The recreational amenities that are available to the residents are kind of limited to trails. If we could come up with an official trail that would be connected to San Dieguito Park.
- Trails connecting active use areas would be worth looking at.
 - ♦ Paul Davis – I thought that trails were considered active use.
- Trails are not considered to be active recreation according to the PLDO rules, they are considered passive recreation. There have been a couple of occasions that PLDO funds were used for trails, but these were only instances where the trail was part of an active recreation site.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – How is active recreation established?
- State law, the Quimby Act.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – Is that something that has seen better times, sounds like people do, in fact, use trails through open space areas for active exercise.
- Jim Peugh – I take care of a neighborhood park, as part of the cities MSCP preserve system; a large part of the use are joggers and walkers that use that as part of their walk because it gets them out of the boredom of walking on concrete. Maybe the County ought to initiate on a legislative level to get that named something more realistic, the way people are actually using recreational trails.
- If there has been any reluctance by the County to do that, it has been because the County's pot of ongoing money that is general fund or grant funded for passive open space land conservation and trail development is about 20 times the size of our ongoing combined funding source for developed parks. So, there is a lot of money that we get each year for trail building and for land acquisitions, but very little money to actually build the type of parks that kids walk down to from their house to play on swing sets or play ball.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – If people keep sending these requests to you that aren't appropriate for PLDO, their obviously trying to send you a message. Maybe the Parks Department needs to hear the message better.
- I don't think it's a matter of us not hearing the message, we get the message, but we have to comply with the law.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – The Parks Department should look into encouraging our legislators to do something with the law.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – Something that is unique about the County of San Diego is that we're more on the edge of development in some of these areas. We have some unique situations that are opportunities. Driving in those neighborhoods, looking at potential trails,.
- That's one of several issues, but not the predominant issue from all the planning groups. Lots of planning groups would like us to spend PLDO money to provide a higher level of ongoing annual maintenance and operations, also an ineligible expenditure. PLDO is one time expenditures.

- ♦ Rick Landavazo – I believe in Valley Center our district used PLDO funds for the school district to build the theatre at the high school. A theatre that the high school operates.
- We've contributed PLDO funding to several of the local parks for school play areas that are open to the public in Valley Center.

6. PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PLAN – Brian Albright

- This plan is how we are measured as a department this year.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy - Is this an opportunity for amendments?
- This is a draft plan and is available on the internet. It gets published at the end of July. It's draft in the sense that numbers are being confirmed and our year end performance measures from this past year, it takes a couple of weeks after the fiscal year to calculate the exact measures from the prior year and that's why it's in draft form. Not likely to have major new ideas, or goals for next year incorporated into the plan.
 - ♦ Paul Davis – The impact of us trying to get the rate hike last spring have an impact on your ability to do these things?
- No, not this year, but it will longer term. It's going to take awhile for new home development to occur and for those fees to hit accounts.
 - ♦ Mike McCoy – Do you have environmental awareness down here and environmental education programs? Since energy is becoming a big issue nation wide, I think that kids need to understand the changes that are coming in our environment.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – Looking at page one, under strategic initiative-safe and livable communities; some of the language that we put into our Parks and Recreation master plan in Encinitas is try to use the word 'walkable'.
- Establishing walkable communities is one of the 9 primary goals components of the childhood obesity action plan that the department is implementing.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – This is pretty impressive, I like the adding of 400 acres of parkland and 25 miles of trails.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – The Parks department maintains the MSCP property too but I don't see any specific goals.
- All of you are scheduled to, as part of one of your meetings in the fall to provide comments and input to our revision to our 5 year strategic plan, which occurs every two years. Mike Haraway is the Chair of our strategic plan committee this year. We will be having that as an item in the fall and will then come back with the draft of plan. One of the things that we will send out is our existing 5 year plan.
 - ♦ Paul Davis – Are you seeking approval of this today?
- No, we're not, we are just sharing the current draft plan.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – On the strategic plan, it might be helpful for me and the others to prepare a little bit better to provide input, if we have more details. Can we use our August meeting to prepare in more detail to be prepared to make comments on the plan, rather than respond to a generalized document. Maybe a 1 or 2 hour workshop, an extra meeting with this group in August on the strategic plan process and how you're making the decisions.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – I think that everyone should read the booklet and then come back and say specifically what we'd like to see in the workshop.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – Well, I've read that and have made general comments. I think that it is important for the committee to take a more active, involved role in the strategic planning, which I guess is going on now since you're preparing a document for September.

- Our goal is to have it published the first of the calendar year; this document will be for 2008 to 2012.
 - ♦ Doug Goad – The results of our committee are showing. We don't want to direct the Parks Department too much on what they do.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – How is the acquisition plan developed? What are the options and the balances? I'm proposing just a little more participation in the development, not to the point of micro managing, but more involvement on how the strategic plan is being developed; more than just reading about it or making some general comments. In the August meeting, we can review some of the topics that we have brought up this last year and identify the general topics articulated and see how those might be included in the strategic plan.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – How much of a public participation process is there with the strategic plan?
- Our Park Development division would bring to the community planning groups in draft form and take comments. Certainly not to the level or detail as we would from this group. We wouldn't specifically have a working meeting. We have a 'comment now' section for the strategic plan on our website for the public. This is only the 2nd plan and we're working on our 3rd. To kick off the process, we have a meeting with Mike and the committee and we invite every employee in the department, so they can give input and have ownership of the strategic plan. It is a 2 hour working meeting with everyone in the department. If any of you want to attend so you can see how the process works you are welcome.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – How are the staff prepared for that meeting?
- It's an ongoing process. Everyone is suppose to have a good understanding of this already, about what they do every day ties into this plan.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – Okay, let's decide to attend this meeting and then meet again as a committee and list out some issues that we want to see included and present those at the PAC meeting in September.
 - ♦ Paul Davis – This will help us make better decisions because we've seen the big picture.
- Brian Albright – For those of you who can make it, join us in August and then at the meeting in September, have this be one of the major items on the agenda and then we can come back in October.

7. COMMUNITY CENTER FEE PROPOSAL – Cory Linder

- We have reviewed our current Community Center fees and have prepared a proposal to increase these fees starting on January 1, 2008. Last year, we increased our campground fees, which then logically led us to look at some of our other fees. After the market analysis of our community center fees, we are still a good deal, even after we raised our fees. We are going to be consistent with our fees and how we charge the community.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – Is there a way that you could let non-profit organizations use this.
- Yes, it would depend on availability. It would be at the Director's discretion, not at the community center level. Fees that have been charged for different things in the past have not been consistent, which is why we have created this fee schedule.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – Will your fee schedule include a footnote that says something about a fee that can be waived or reduced under certain conditions? I think that the non-profits should know about it.
- Again, the goal is to be consistent with the fees.

- ♦ Rick Landavazo – I'm concerned that it will be a barrier to access for the community groups.
- ♦ Mike McCoy – Do you have cooperatives that can use the facilities?
- Like the revitalization committees, planning committees, yes, we do and they're in there for free. That's a specific partnership that's linked directly with to our strategic plan, which is different than a church group or other various non-profits.
 - ♦ Rick Landavazo – If there is some mechanism for groups to work with the Parks department for access, I think that should be included in your policy somehow.
- We would like your approval to move forward with this fee increase.

MOTION TO APPROVE FEE SCHEDULE CHANGE – Rick Landavazo, 2nd John Degenfelder
ALL IN FAVOR – 7-0-0

- ♦ Jim Peugh – How will you evaluate this in the next fiscal year?
- We would like to establish fee revisions board letter or document goes forth in December and it contains all the fee revisions. Fees aren't revised every year. This is the document that the board can expect to see every year and it ensures that we are looking at all of the fees every year. We are required to come to the board every year for certain fees. The goal is not to raise fees every year but to also not get in the situation like PLDO where we had 21 years with no increases.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ANY ITEM ON TODAY'S AGENDA

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT 9:52 am

ATTENDEES:

Rick Landavazo, District 5
John Degenfelder, District 2
Doug Goad, District 3
Paul Davis, District 3
Jim Peugh, District 4
Mike McCoy, District 1
Roger Utt, District 4
Cory Linder, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Mike Haraway, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Teresa Beauharnois, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Melissa Lowery, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation